



City code on Tree Removal

What are the City Rules on this, anyway?

What do I need to know about tree removal as a residential property owner?

If you intend to cut down, top, and/or remove any tree that is six inches or larger in diameter (measured 4 ½ feet above ground) from your property, you will need to obtain a no-fee tree removal permit from the City, and replace it with a new tree. A replacement tree is not required when a dead tree is removed.

Who is affected by the tree protection regulations?

The tree protection regulations apply to all property, including all residential properties, within the City limits of Redmond.

Why are tree cutting permits required in residential areas?

Tree removal without subsequent tree replacement can create water runoff and erosion problems for your property and your neighbors' property. Therefore, it is a neighborhood/community issue – not just a private property issue.

Why did the City adopt the ordinance?

The City adopted the tree ordinance because trees provide rich habitat for wildlife, stabilize and enrich the soil, improve air and water quality and moderate the effects of wind and temperatures. Many residents moved to and remain in Redmond because they enjoy the many trees that are a part of our community. The ordinance is in their best interest as well.

How many trees can I remove?

Always contact the City prior to any tree removal. Many factors determine how many trees can be removed – including the size of the property; the size of the trees; the number of trees you want to remove, retain and replant; and the health of the trees proposed for removal. The City can help determine how many trees can be removed within each calendar year, and whether a no-fee tree cutting or a fee-based clearing and grading permit will be required.

How do I determine what kind of trees to replant?

A general replanting rule is like-for-like, but the purpose of the new trees and the size to which they will grow must be considered as well. It also depends on the purpose of the new trees. They could be replanted for the purpose of shade from the sun or screening for privacy, or for providing a mixture of color, type, texture, or accent; or perhaps for providing a windbreak during storms, a boundary line delineation or avoidance of overhead lines and underground pipes.

Size and spacing are also an important consideration – an oak tree is much larger than a dogwood or plum tree and most pine trees are larger than an aspen or maple. Lastly, you may want to determine the shape you desire: round (white oak), oval (sugar maple), columnar (poplar), v-shaped (hackberry), or pyramidal (pin oak or most pine trees). Most arborists or tree nursery professionals can help with tree planting decisions.

What do I do with the dead tree on my property?

Most arborists suggest that dead, heavily-diseased and dangerous trees on your property be removed. This prevents possible property damage and the spread of disease to neighboring trees. City Code requires that a no-fee tree cutting permit be obtained from the City prior to tree removal within residential areas, unless

the tree is an imminent danger to life or property (in which case the tree should be removed immediately).

What trees cannot be removed?

Removal of protected and landmark trees is generally prohibited unless safety is a concern. "Protected" trees are trees that were preserved during new development to help maintain a desirable balance between the natural environment and the built environment. The protected trees may be located in native growth protection areas ("greenbelts"), sensitive area buffers ("wetlands"), in clusters that were saved from building development, or individually located throughout the plat or subdivision.

"Landmark" trees are defined as any tree greater than 30 inches in diameter (measured 4 ½ feet above ground). Healthy landmark trees cannot be removed unless an exception is granted.

What about routine pruning and maintenance?

As long as the tree is not located in a native growth protection area or a sensitive area, no permit is required; however, the City does not consider topping a tree to be pruning or maintenance.

What about my neighbor's tree (its leaves are falling on my property/the tree has fallen onto my property)?

Washington case law has determined that these instances are a civil matter between neighbors. The City only becomes involved when one of its trees falls onto private property; in which case the City removes the tree.

Who may I contact if I suspect illegal treecutting in my neighborhood?

For tree cutting violations in the Grasslawn and Overlake areas, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Deborah Farris at 425-556-2465 or dfarris@redmond.gov. For tree cutting violations in the Willows, Sammamish Valley, City Center, Education Hill and Bear Creek areas, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Carl McCarthy at 425-556-2412 or cmcarthy@redmond.gov. On week-ends, please contact the Redmond Police Department at 425-556-2500.

For more information about tree cutting permits:

Planner on-call at 425-556-2494 or planneroncall@redmond.gov
To download an application from the web: www.redmond.gov, click on City Services and select Tree Cutting Permit
For questions about this article contact Carl McCarthy at 425-556-2412 or cmcarthy@redmond.gov



From Thanksgiving through the first week of the New Year, Redmond will celebrate traditions of the winter holiday season with festivities, food and entertainment.

The Kick-Off Celebration, December 4, features a festive tree-lighting at City Hall followed by the Holiday RiverWalk along the Sammamish River Trail.

Other events include Los Santos Reyes, January 8, with music, dance and food.

Visit www.redmond.gov to learn more about RedmondLights 2005.

Sponsored in part by the City of Redmond and Redmond Town Center; funded in part by Redmond Tourism Promotion Fund.



Stay Informed through Crimeweb

The Redmond Police department has teamed up with the crime and public safety alerts leader, *Crimeweb*, in an increased effort to keep our citizens informed about crime prevention and awareness. Replacing our Neighborhood Network Alert System is **www.crimeweb.net**, where residents and businesses can go to register online to receive free notifications on major crimes and police-sponsored events. *Crimeweb* is an online service used by public safety agencies nationwide to distribute information about missing children or adults, major crimes, homeland security and crime prevention via email and text messaging.

Every officer at the Redmond Police department is committed to providing the best possible service. Our vision is to continue policing a city where people enjoy a safe and secure environment, and where crime prevention is a team sport with everyone in the neighborhood pitching in for one another, staying informed and reporting suspicious activity to the police.

Crimeweb is just another tool we plan to use to keep all of you aware of crime information. Likewise, we request that you start or continue to make us aware of any problems or concerns you may have. Please go to www.crimeweb.net and register for FREE. Note that this is only for police related incidents; you will not receive any junk mail! Thanks in advance for joining our team to keep Redmond a safe and wonderful place to live—and please, pass this information on to a friend.